



ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

Commission Meeting

Tuesday, November 20, 2012

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DES Director's Conference Room

1717 W Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Meeting Minutes

Commissioners Present:

Clarence H. Carter, Co-Chair, Department of Economic Security (DES); Michael Traylor, Co-Chair, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Brian Spicker, VSUW; Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); Karen Hellman (Alternate), Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS); Mary Murphy, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GCYF); Melissa Thomas (Alternate), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS); Terri Leveton, Halo of Hope Foundation; Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC) and Victor Hudenko, Independent Consultant (Retired, Catholic Charities Community Services, Inc.)

Commissioners Absent:

Charles Ryan, Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Colonel Joey Strickland, Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (ADVS); David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista; Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); and Will Humble, Arizona Department of Health Services (DHS).

Staff Present:

Melanie Starns, Department of Economic Security (DES); Jodi Liggett, City of Phoenix, Mayor's Office; Amy Schwabenlender, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW); Karia Basta, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Travis Shulte, Arizona Department of Veteran Services (AZDVS); Raoul Sada, Department of Economic Security (DES); Donna Bleyle (DES); Margaret Kilman (DES) and Priscilla Cruz (DES).

Guests Present:

Mayor Greg Stanton, City of Phoenix and Karla Avalos-Soto, speaker for Mayor Rothschild, City of Tucson

Welcome and Introductions:

Co-Chair Traylor called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He issued a special welcome to our guest speakers from the City of Phoenix, Mayor Greg Stanton and from the City of Tucson, speaker for Mayor Rothschild, Karla Avalos-Soto. He then requested that the commission members quickly introduce themselves to the guest speakers.

Approval of the Minutes:

Co-Chair Carter called for a motion to approve the Tuesday, September 18, 2012 meeting minutes. The motion was approved and passed by Commissioners in attendance.

SFY 2012 Homeless Data Overview:

Donna Bleye gave a brief homelessness data overview, citing that Statewide there is an overall increase in homelessness by 12.8 percent. Chronic homelessness shows a significant increase, but we don't have the Tucson/Pima county numbers for Chronic homeless, therefore we do not have the complete picture. Surprisingly there was also an increase in first time homelessness. Maricopa County has done a magnificent job of holding the line on homelessness with a 1 percent decrease. Veteran's homelessness numbers have decreased by 12.8 percent in Maricopa County. Many veterans have been placed into permanent housing, freeing up the system for emergency shelter inflow. Donna also stated that this accomplishment could not have been achieved without the collaboration of Federal, State, City and County agencies all working together. Pima County reported homelessness numbers have increased by over 40 percent. We as a group will need to further study these numbers in order to determine the cause of the increase. There was also a slight increase in the numbers from the Balance of State, which shows an increase in chronic homelessness, adults and families with children. Donna summed up with the fact that these numbers show how different our state is and how the numbers reflect that.

City of Phoenix / Homeless Agenda:

Guest speaker, Mayor Stanton, stated what an honor it is to be invited to speak. Mayor Stanton then issued a heartfelt thanks to Jodi Liggett who is doing an awesome job as the City of Phoenix homelessness and human services representative. Mayor Stanton then issued a thank you to Director Carter for his efforts at DES. He then stated that his strategy as Mayor of Phoenix is to be the very best 'team player' that he can be in order to push forward an agenda that he believes in. He then stated that he has placed human services and homelessness as high a priority as he can, he wants to make sure that we get our fair share of human services dollars, and also CDBG and LIHEAP funds. He then stated that we don't get our fair share of head start dollars and that's not acceptable, he intends to make strides to obtain those dollars for our community. He also stated that the federal government's resources need to 'catch up' with the year 2012 and need to update their funding formulas which have been in place for about thirty years. We need to better align the support services departments in order to maximize the chances that a family who benefits from our housing programs gets in that permanent housing scope. He then stated that we need to re-look at the first come first serve basis, instead we need to use professional judgment about which families can most benefit from the program. This organization is striving to push us in the correct direction in order to end homelessness in our city and our state. He stated that our representatives need to 'own' this issue and government needs to come together (Federal, State, City and County) in order to make strides to end homelessness. In closing Mayor Stanton stated that homelessness is not only a downtown Phoenix issue, nor even a State of Arizona issue, it is cumulative effort and we should continue to 'push' our governmental leaders to make the appropriate changes which will make homelessness a priority.

City of Tucson / Homeless Agenda:

Guest speaker, Karla Avalos-Soto, representing Mayor Rothschild from the City of Tucson, is the Health and Human Services Advisor for Mayor Rothschild. Ms. Avalos-Soto reported that Mayor Rothschild is very passionate about the poverty and homelessness issue and has instituted a task force, known as the poverty commission, which is comprised of members from the non-profit sector, private

sector and the philanthropic sector. This commission was formed to assist in advising Mayor Rothschild and aiding him in developing long term sustainable strategies to end poverty and homelessness in Tucson. He is also looking to get the message of poverty and homelessness out to businessman in order to engage the community so that they may have a full understanding of the poverty and homelessness issue in Tucson and assist with this issue. Mayor Rothschild is also looking to align with partners and other non-profit and county organizations in order to help assist with the poverty and homelessness issues.

Committee Reports:

Housing Committee: Commissioner Traylor reported on this committee stating that the housing locator tool was demoed at the Annual State Homeless Conference in October and did well. A 'soft' launch of the tool will be done by mid-end of December and by January we should be ready for the full launch making the tool available across the state. This locator tool will assist case managers in finding housing and give us front door access to affordable and permanent supportive housing. This tool will also give us enormous back door information as to who is looking for housing, what size of units, what counties they are in and where are they for planning purposes as we move down the road.

Studies and Survey Committee: Commissioner Spicker reported on this committee stating that 1,270 homeless surveys have been completed and most of the data has been entered. He issued a heartfelt thank you to Karia Basta, Ken McKinley and Brande Meade for their efforts with the surveys completed. We will have a small team come together to implement/map how the survey data is to be utilized by the commission.

Homeless Services Committee: Commissioner Newsom reported on this committee stating that we now have 11 family homeless providers using the housing barriers assessment tool. As a result of using this tool we are getting a good idea of the barriers surrounding homeless families. We still need a graduate student to work with us to take it to the next step.

Data Management Committee: Commissioner Williams reported on this committee stating they are waiting for HUD to finish the interim rule in the new HEARTH Act and it will affect HMIS. We do have an understanding that all three continuums are collecting the universal required data. He reported that the HEARTH Act is in the process of changing programs. The motivation is to make it easier to work with and that it will further the commitment of the Federal government to improve funding for homeless programs. We are expecting a minimum of 3.5 percent reduction in this coming year for grants. The HEARTH Act appears to be not as user friendly as one would hope and there are concerns raised about its implementation. Commissioner Williams is hopeful that we will have better success and more flexibility in implementing the HEARTH Act when it comes up.

Announcements:

Commissioner Newsom announced that healthcare for the homeless is now offered at the campus of UMOM with our Phoenix Children's Hospital clinic, so for two days a week healthcare for the

homeless will be providing adult and family care to our residents. Now the clinic is fully functioning 5 days a week.

Commissioner Newsom also announced that UMOM received a very large gift of five million dollars from the Parsons Foundation which will allow UMOM to intensify some of the services that are offered at UMOM. This gift will allow us to develop more housing and housing interventions for our families.

Future Agenda Items:

Safe Haven– the role it will play from the streets.

Having the continuums come together at the March 2013 meeting to discuss challenges and strategies.

What are the outcomes expected by the HEARTH Act?

Call to the Public:

Co-Chair Trailor issued a call to the public and Melissa Thomas offered that the commission should consider placing someone from Pima County on the commission. Amy announced that Project Connect will be held on December 13th in Tempe. And, on February 5th there is a Save the Date ribbon cutting on the new Native American housing construction.

Next Meeting:

The next ACHH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 15, 2013.

Adjourn:

Co-Chair Trailor called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was approved and passed by the commissioners in attendance. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.